



Proposed Code Change

State Form 41186R

RETURN TO:
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CODE SERVICES SECTION
302 W. Washington Street Room W246
Indianapolis, IN 46204

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received 5/11/09

Code 37-09

INSTRUCTIONS:

Only TYPED copy accepted.

(KEY – Dashed line through material to be deleted, underline material to be added)

Use second sheet for any material requiring more space.

Code Title International Residential Code		Edition 2009
Section number and title R311.7.7.3 Grip-size		Page 61
Proponent Calvin Bolt Inspections and Testing	Title Owner	
Address 1310 Oriole Dr. Warsaw, IN 46580		Phone 574-269-3507
PROPOSED CODE CHANGE (Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Change to read as follows <input type="checkbox"/> Add to read as follows <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delete and substitute as follows <input type="checkbox"/> Delete without substitution		
Add the current Indiana Amendment Section 311.5.6.3 and amend it by adding this sentence: Maximum width of any handrail shall be 3 1/2".		
REASON AND FISCAL IMPACT		
<p>One reason is simply for clarification and understanding, to avoid confusion.</p> <p>Another reason is because the part of the Indiana Amendment where it states, "Other handrail shapes that provide an equivalent grasping surface are permissible", leaves it open as a judgment call as to the allowable width. (The ICC/IRC also includes a similar statement). For instance, I personally can grasp a nominal sized 2x6 with square corners and do just fine, but maybe only 20-25% of the population could do this. For just one example, one of the Trex hand railings is a Type II hand rail and is 3 3/8" wide above the recess, so this would still be an acceptable railing. I do not know if there are other sized railings out there, that are say 3 5/8", which would then be eliminated. I have seen composite hand railings out there installed on deck stairs that are Type II and are 5-5 1/2" wide, which in my judgment, would not be graspable to the bulk of the general public/homeowners.</p> <p>The "Visual Interpretation Of The IRC 2003 Stair Building Code" that Houser Cantor passed out to us, shows the maximum allowable width of a Type II handrail above the recess to be 2 3/4". But, on the other hand, it also shows a picture under Drawing 28 of a width of 3 1/4" for "Profiles other than Type I and Type II may be determined to provide equivalent graspability".</p> <p>I guess my bottom line here is to remove any judgment calling issues, and to clarify this area to avoid confusion.</p> <p>All of what I am referring to here is in the area of deck hand railings for stairs/steps in particular, but would also include all hand railings inside the house as well.</p> <p>Fiscal impact probably none.</p>		
REVIEW RECOMMENDATION		
Approve		
Disapprove		
Approve as amended		
Further Study withdrawn without discussion 6/11/09		